

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER REGION ROUND-UP

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- **October 10-11**- Laredo, Texas

Board Member Linda Smith Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that we convey the news that Board member Linda Smith died on August 24, 2001. Linda was an extremely talented individual whose wisdom, infectious enthusiasm, and keen sense of humor strengthened our professional work and deepened our personal ties. We will miss her greatly.

Board Member David Randolph Steps Down

State Department representative David Randolph has resigned from the Board in conjunction with his retirement from the federal government. David very ably served the Board for over three years, providing extremely helpful input into its deliberations. We wish David all the best in his future endeavors. His successor on the Board is Dennis Linskey, who has become Coordinator for U.S.-Mexican Border Affairs at the State Department.

Chair and Four Members Meet with Governor Christie Todd Whitman, EPA Administrator

Chair Judith Espinosa, and five Board members -- Diana Borja, Irasema Coronado, Placido dos Santos, Ed Ranger, and Nancy Sutley -- met with EPA Administrator Whitman on Tuesday the 7th of August in her offices in Washington, D.C. They offered Administrator Whitman the Board's expertise as a unique advisory resource on border-region issues. They also raised Board concerns about the BECC/NADBank issue and offered to host public input meetings on this topic. In addition, they invited Governor Whitman to our next meeting in Laredo. Several additional senior Agency officials attended the meeting including the new head of EPA's International Activities Office, Judith Ayres.

Two Members Attend First Fox Administration Consejo Meeting

In the spirit of continued transboundary information exchange, Board members Irasema Coronado and Ed Ranger attended the "Consejos Consultivos para el Desarrollo Sustentable" meeting in Mexico City on August 16-17. It was the first meeting of the four Consejos since Vicente Fox was elected President. (The Consejos advise the Mexican Administration, in particular SEMARNAT, much as Good Neighbor advises the U.S. President and Congress.) Proposals discussed during the meeting included creation of three new subcommittees within Consejo

Region I, one of which would be a northern border committee. No final decision was taken.

Final 2001 Good Neighbor Meeting: Laredo, Texas, October 10-11

The Board will hold its final meeting of 2001 in Laredo, Texas, on October 10-11. Speakers on October 10 will address two themes: transportation and rural issues. A public comment session will take place that afternoon. On the second day, October 11, the Board will hold a business meeting in the morning and tentatively is scheduled to meet jointly with Consejo Region 1, its counterpart Mexican advisory committee, that afternoon.

EPA News

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Three additional EPA senior managers have been confirmed: George Tracy Mehan III as Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water; Jeffrey Holmstead as Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air; and Robert Fabricant as EPA General Counsel. Fabricant was Chief Counsel to then-New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman from 2000-2001.

Border Region News

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****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

Air: New Source Review - In September, EPA will propose a comprehensive strategy to reduce air pollution that incorporates the Agency's review of the New Source Review (NSR) program. NSR requires utilities and other industries to install pollution controls when a new facility is built, or when an existing facility makes changes that significantly increase emissions. See www.epa.gov/ttn/nsr/

BECC/NADBank: Paper - The Texas Center for Policy Studies, the North American Integration and Development Center, and the William C. Velasquez Institute have jointly released a public interest proposal for reforming BECC and NADBank called "Finding Common Ground." See www.texascenter.org/bordertrade/reform.htm

BECC/NADBank: Survey - Results from a public survey on the public's views about BECC and NADBank are now available on-line. The survey was conducted by the Border Information & Outreach Service (BIOS). See www.us-mex.org/survey

Diesel Fuel - EPA has recognized the certification of International Truck and Engine Company for its Green Diesel Engine Technology TM. The technology is being used in the San Diego, CA., Unified School District. See www.tgreendieseltechnology.com and www.epa.gov/otag/diesel.htm

Energy Efficiency - EPA Region 6 will award a Clean Air Act Section 103 grant for \$40,000 to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to enhance energy efficiency in area buildings. See www.energystar.gov

Maquiladora Industry - According to a recent newspaper article, the Sonora state government has announced it has a 10 million peso fund to support border maquiladoras that are in economic trouble because of the U.S. economic

slowdown.

SanDiego: Website - Information on issues facing San Diego's cross-border region is available on the recently-updated web site called San Diego Dialogue. See www.sandiegodialogue.org

Transportation - Grants - EPA, under a new national transportation partnership program, is awarding grants to communities aimed at reducing emissions from the transportation sector and enhancing energy efficiency. One of the recipients is the California Air Resources Board, which received \$171,000 for its project, "Community-based Transit Improvements: Simple Solutions and Measurable Results."

Water: Coastal conservation grant - The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has announced grants awarded by the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation to 17 NGOs in Mexico, the U.S., and Canada. One of the recipients was a Mexico-U.S. coalition called Wildcoast, which received \$25,000 for a project called, "Developing Economic Incentives for Marine Resource Conservation in Two Marine-Protected Areas of the Baja California Peninsula, Mexico." See www.cec.org/grants

Water: Coastal newsletter - A new quarterly, bilingual newsletter addresses water quality, coastal watersheds and habitats in the Southern California Bight. See www.sandag.org/bight/english/what_s_new.html

Water: TMDL - EPA is seeking public comment on a draft cost study that says the cost for cleaning up the nation's waters under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program could run between \$900 million and \$4.3 billion dollars annually. See www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl

Border Issues Events Calendar

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*Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may have changed. Please check a primary source for more details. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered.*

Sept 4	U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission (BNC) meeting, Washington, D.C.
Sept 5	President Fox visit to U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
Sept 8-11	Children's Environmental Health II: Global Forum for Action Conference, Washington, D.C.
Sept 12	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Forum, El Paso, TX.
Sept 12-13	BECC meeting, Mexico City.
Sept 13	EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
Sept 13-14	CEC Mexican Pollution Prevention Roundtable, Monterrey, Mexico.
Sept 16-18	Aspen Clean Energy Roundtable VIII, Aspen, CO. See www.MontreuxEnergy.com
Sept 17-21	Advanced Water Pollution Control Seminar, Univ. of TX, Austin. See www.lifelong.engr.utexas.edu
Sept 20-21	CEC SMOC and JPAC meetings, Tucson, AZ
Sept 21-22	U.S./Mexico Border Counties Coalition annual membership mtg, San Diego, CA.
Sept 26-28	Ten (U.S.-Mexico Border) States Meeting - Monterrey, CA
Oct 4-5	CEC National and Government Advisory Committee meetings, Washington, D.C.
Oct 10	BECC meeting, Santa Fe, NM
Oct 10	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Forum, El Paso, TX.

Oct 10-11 Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, Laredo, TX. See www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm
Oct 11 EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
Oct 16 - 19 SCERP 2001 Annual Technical Conference: Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Mexicali, B.C. See www.scerp.org
Oct 20 Día del Rio (River Day), organized by the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Coalition.
Oct 25-26 Border Energy Forum, Tucson, AZ. See www.glo.state.tx.us/border
 Oct 29-31 Stream, Riparian, and Floodplain Restoration Workshop, Albuquerque, NM.
 Oct 29-31 2001 New Mexico Environmental Health Conference: Building Partnerships for Healthy Communities, Albuquerque, NM.. See www.nmehc.org
Nov 8 EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
 Nov 12-15 AWRA's Annual Water Resources Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Contact mike@awra.org
Nov 14 EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Forum, El Paso, TX.
Dec 5-6 BECC meeting, Ciudad Victoria
 Dec 11-13 Building Native Nations II Conference: Environment, Natural Resources, and Governance, Tucson, AZ. Sponsored by Udall Center.
Dec 12 EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Forum, El Paso, TX.
 Dec 17-21 International Conference on Pesticide Use & Health , NIH, Bethesda, MD. Contact: soeh@degnon.org.
2002
 Feb 23-27 Watershed 2002, Fort Lauderdale, FL. See www.wef.org

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